

Circuit Rider



A publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · August 2021

Moving Forward

It's hard to believe that the month of July is over. Soon, schools will be back in session, and summer vacations will have come and gone. And here at First Glendale, we'll be looking at our fall calendar and beyond, with an eye to beginning in earnest the journey that we've been talking about for some time – of finding new ways to grow our congregation, reaching out to our community in new ways that will allow us to share the good news of the grace and hope of Christ with our neighbors.

A big part of that will be what was mentioned in the verses from the letter to the Philippians, quoted above. While we may not yet know exactly how we'll accomplish the goal of renewing and growing our church home, it will be crucially important that we keep our focus on that goal. If we make that our priority, whatever

This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus – Philippians 3:13b-14

changes we may have to make, efforts we may have to contribute, and new ministries we may have to create, will make more sense. I suspect that all of us, including yours truly, will be challenged in some ways. We may be “*Forgetting what lies behind,*” moving away from things that produced wonderful results in the past, but are no longer working today. And we may be “*Straining forward to what lies ahead,*” moving beyond our experience and/or comfort zone to do things we've never done before. From experience, I can share that doing those kind of things, while they may be challenging at the time, often produce the greatest satisfaction. When we place our trust in God, and make fulfilling

God's purposes our priority, it's amazing how much God will grow our own abilities and understanding in the process.

In the midst of these generalities, there's one specific thing that many of us have already done, and I hope the rest of us will do, to help us move forward in a very concrete way. As I'm sure most of us already know, the Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus, which is more contagious and dangerous than previous versions, is now the dominant strain in the pandemic. It's present in all 50 states, and is beginning to spread rapidly. Just a couple of weeks ago, I spoke to a relative of one of our members, who shared that her husband

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First United Methodist Church

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Current Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor

Moving Forward

(Continued from page 1)

had recently passed away from COVID, after a valiant struggle with overwhelming illness. My colleagues in ministry and I sincerely hope that we will not need to retrace our steps, and move backward to more restrictions, after all the progress we've made in the last few months. I'm asking, in the sincerest way I can, that those in our Church Family who are eligible and have not been vaccinated, to please take that step. If you or someone in your family has decided to remain unvaccinated, please prayerfully reconsider that decision and/or ask them to do so. If you have concerns about how the vaccines may impact your health, please discuss them with your primary care physician. And if you feel that vaccination is unnecessary, I ask that you consider getting immunized for the sake of family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. As I shared several months ago, the only reason I'm advocating for this is to protect the people of our congregation from a potentially lethal disease. I, and I'm sure virtually all of us, want to be done with COVID once and for all, and move forward to the full lives we've wanted to resume for over a year.

With God's help, let's press on to what lies ahead. Let's do what we can to put our recent struggles behind us, and move forward to the exciting future that God has in store for us. And let's do all these things with our focus on the goal of a thriving First United Methodist Church, offering inspiring ministry to our community, in the ways that God will lead us to do.

— In Christ's Service,

Tom Jelinek, Pastor

August 1: 10th Sunday in Kingdomtide; Communion Sunday

Scripture: John 6: 24-35

Sermon: *Sustaining Nourishment*

August 8: 11th Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25–5:14

Sermon: *Shining in the Dark*

August 15: 12th Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: 1 Kings 3: 3-14

Sermon: *In the Driver's Seat*

August 22: 13th Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 10-20

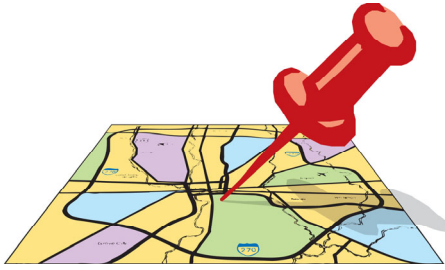
Sermon: *Unconcealed Faith*

August 29: 14th Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: Mark 7: 1-13

Sermon: *We've Always Done it Like That!*





MISSIONS

The Missions Committee met in July as a group. This was our first real meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic kept most of us out of group meetings. We also had a few visitors, and we welcomed Rev. Jelinek as well.

We have a few events coming up. We are preparing an evening meal for those attending Vacation Bible School the last week in July. The next project is preparing Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse).

UMOM has been constructing a new apartment building on the west side, which they hope to open late this summer. We will be finding ways to help those new residents.

Our Missions Committee really appreciates the support we have received for our service opportunities and we hope you will continue to help us with these projects.

–Jeanne Rumbold
Chairperson, Missions Committee

Each year, the West District prays for all the churches in its jurisdiction for one month. In August, please pray for:



- Mission Bell UMC, Glendale
- Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
- New Church Start, Yuma
- New Song UMC, Surprise



GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- GATEWAY SECTOR -
2021 COFFEE WITH A COP EVENTS

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND POLICE OFFICERS FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION!

No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

APRIL 21st 8:00AM
HEROES PARK
83 AVE/BETHANY HOME




MAY 19th 8:00AM
HEROES PARK
83 AVE/BETHANY HOME



JUNE 16th 8:00AM
KISS THE COOK
4915 W GLENDALE AVE




JULY 21st 6:00PM
CULVER'S
5127 N 99th AVE




AUGUST 18th 6:00PM
BLACK SHEEP
5717 W GLENDALE AVE




SEPTEMBER 15th 8:00AM
CRACKER BARREL
9312 W GLENDALE AVE




OCTOBER 20th 6:00PM
DESERT ROSE
6729 N 57th DR



NOVEMBER 17th 6:00PM
CARAMBA'S
9455 W GLENDALE AVE



DECEMBER 15th 6:00PM
THE SPICERY
7141 N 59th AVE



GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT: NON-EMERGENCY (623) 930-3000, EMERGENCY 911

GATEWAY EAST COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM: OFFICER JEFF HORSLEY (623) 930-4029 & CPS DOREEN ANDERSON (623) 930-4044
GATEWAY WEST COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM: OFFICER CORLEY MCCLUNG (623) 930-4060 & CPS AIMEE TIBBITS (623) 930-4052

Update from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

The Brad Riner Assistance Office has received a \$2,000 grant from City of Glendale's From the Heart program. From the Heart gives agencies that provide services to Glendale residents a helping hand. Making a donation is easy; Glendale utility customers can add \$2 to their monthly bill payments. Thank you to the City of Glendale!

This has been a busy summer. The Riner Office is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:00 am –2:00 pm. We serve 50-60 sack lunches daily, give out 40 homeless food bags weekly as well as family food boxes. And we still provide one-time emergency utility assistance of \$100 to those in need. This week alone we helped 17 people with utility payments!

I really appreciate that the church has always supported us. I have a request for items that we always need. We go through a great many plastic bags so if you have extra bags from the grocery store, we can always use them. We also need small size hygiene items, so if any of you are fortunate enough to travel this summer we would be very grateful if you bring back some shampoo and soaps from your hotel.

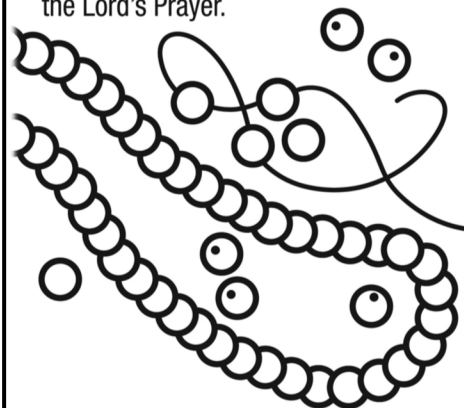
If you have any of these items there is a box in the church narthex (lobby) where you can drop things in on your way into church. Thank you for your continued support!

—Elizabeth Leggett
Director of Outreach



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



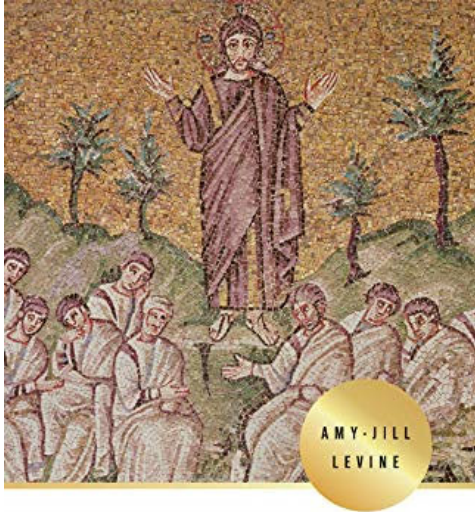
What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver



SERMON *on* the MOUNT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to the KINGDOM of HEAVEN

New Adult Bible Study to Begin Sunday, August 8 10:30 am

Jesus didn't have a camera, but he gave us a beautiful picture in words of the kind of people who would be his followers in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Sermon on the Mount, we find the attitudes, character and conduct of those who would be followers of Jesus. On Sunday mornings beginning on August 8, Rev. Tom Wick will lead this 6-week DVD study by Amy Jill Levine, exploring the most popular sermon ever delivered.

To register for this study, please call church office, 623-939-1409 option 2, or email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

We need people to pre-register so we know how many people will be attending the classes. Once we have a count, we will determine which room we will use. Thanks!

Study Materials Available

We have a lot of good materials in our library, including short-term DVD studies which are easy to lead! If you are interested in starting up a small group study, whether in your home or on our campus, we have some great materials for you to use. Contact Rebecca in the church office (rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com, or 623-939-1409, option 2) if you would like to browse our collection. We can also purchase new materials if there is a study you are interested in leading. We have plenty of books, leader's guides and DVDs—what we need is volunteers!

Veterans Day Photo Display for Altar

Debbie Sneddon is looking for photos of service members, past or present, for a Veterans Day display on the altar. Please bring or e-mail images to the church office. If you need Debbie to pick up or return a photo, she is willing to do that. Thank you!



Update from the Finance Subcommittee

In June, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$29,081.58 (up about \$2,400 from our May donations of \$26,618.01) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Camp Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Wednesday Lunches, Brick-by-Brick, Missions and other designated funds as well as interest and increases to our TD Ameritrade investment account. Focusing on the General Fund, we had income of \$23,384.55 and expenses of \$18,905.70. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$4,400 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$15,417.53.

I'm happy to report that our pledgers stepped up in June and their giving returned to expected levels. Less happy to report that our non-pledged giving dropped in June by roughly a corresponding amount, so that the General Fund giving in both May and June was nearly the same. The increase in our checking account was due to the lower expenses in June (nearly a \$12,000 reduction).

Where did the savings come from? A variety of sources: Twice a year we have a month with an extra payroll (three instead of the normal two). This year that occurred in May. Our June payroll cost was \$4,500 lower. We did not make an apportionment payment in June; a \$4,700 savings. Also we lost our Youth Director at the end of May, resulting in a savings of \$2,200 in June. As reported last month we did not make a solar lease payment in June, but then we had some additional Building & Grounds (maintenance) expenses, so the savings in the category was only about \$1,000. However, all total, June saw some significant reductions in expenses.

The sanctuary chiller has been repaired and back in service. But we are deliberately running only one chiller at a time to keep our electricity rates as low as possible while the solar array gets sorted out. At this time we are producing no electricity from our solar array. The June electric bill from APS was over \$2,100 which we will pay in July. Going forward, it is going to be a long hot summer and our electric bills will grow accordingly. We will need our solar array back on line before we can run both chillers at the same time.

This is your church, and you have the right to know how we are doing financially at any time. So, if you have any questions, no matter how big or how small, regarding the budget or finances of the church, I strongly encourage you to ask. You will get your answer.

May God continue to guide and bless our church.
—David Mosley, Finance Subcommittee Chair



Summer Learning

On June 25th, I attended the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women Mission u: *Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence*.

Did you know that Mission u is not just for women? In fact, this particular study was designed for youth, and was written for those interested in working alongside youth on issues of violence. Throughout the study, we had discussions on the definition of violence, the root causes of violence, and how God is calling us to respond to violence. We had youth and men in attendance, which brought a lot to the conversation. We discussed visible violence, institutional violence, and cultural violence and discussed ally-ship and how to be an ally, all through the lens of biblical stories and examples. It was a great experience.

By the time you read this article, I will also have attended “Pushout” on the criminalization of black girls in schools and the racial justice movement to stop the school to prison pipeline. This will be a tough discussion and all of the participants will have to be brave to face their own issues and learn about what many of our young people are facing.

I will also have had the wonderful opportunity to lead the Adult VBS classes July 26-30. The study we are doing is based on the Serenity Prayer. I am really looking forward to leading the class, I know I will learn as much as I teach! If you missed it and really wanted to attend, let me know. If there is enough interest, I will be happy to host it again.

There is one more Mission u study that I am really looking forward to: *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship* (August 13-14). This last study is about being empowered to imagine God’s justice and to lead with compassion, to make a difference to all of creation. I am looking forward to learning more about being siblings in faith and bearing witness as we advocate for the future.

If you are interested in joining this last Mission u study, it is only \$20 and it is completely online. I will be there!

<https://dscumc.org/secure/2021-mission-u-registration/>

—Christine Jones





If you would like to submit an article for the weekly e-news or the monthly newsletter, the deadlines are:

- **E-news: Tuesdays by 3:00 pm**
- **Circuit Rider: Second Friday of each month by 5:00 pm**

You may send items/articles to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com. Thank you! If you aren't getting our newsletters, and would like to, please contact Rebecca at the email address above.

Deadline for the next issue is Aug 13. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 5:00 pm.
 email:
rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com
 fax: 623.236.9284

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